

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, February 22, 2008

08-30

TWO MEN INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN SEPARATE IMMIGRATION CASES OF ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY AND DOCUMENT FRAUD

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on February 21, 2008, Blas Miguel Rios-Carlos and Saul Carranza-Torres were separately indicted by a federal grand jury in Anchorage on charges of immigration document fraud and illegal re-entry into the United States.

Each three-count indictment named Blas Miguel Rios-Carlos, age 22, and Saul Carranza-Torres, age 34, as the sole defendant.

According to the indictments, the defendants illegally re-entered the United States without permission after previously being deported and each knowingly possessed a counterfeit Permanent Resident Card and a fraudulently obtained social security account number.

Special Assistant United States Attorney John Reardon, who presented the cases to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides for a maximum total sentence of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendants.

Customs and Immigration Enforcement conducted the investigation leading to the indictments in this case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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